



July 1, 2011

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Salish begins service today!

We are very proud to announce that the 64-car Salish joins the 64-car Chetzemoka on the Port Townsend/Coupeville route today, with the noon sailing from Port Townsend. This is a momentous occasion, as it marks the first time in nearly four years that we are providing two-boat service on this important connection between Whidbey Island and the Olympic Peninsula. It is even more reason to celebrate that we were able to put the Salish into service in time for our busiest weekend of the year. I would once again like to thank and congratulate our crews for their hard work during the training period which made the Salish's timely entry into service possible. I hope everyone enjoys riding the newest addition to our fleet!

Salish community celebration

Yesterday we were in Port Townsend to celebrate the restoration of two-boat service to the Port Townsend/Coupeville. We were joined by the Whidbey Island and Port Townsend communities and had the pleasure of listening to remarks from the following: Sen. Mary Margaret Haugen, Rep. Judy Clibborn, Rep. Kevin Van De Wege, Rep. Barbara Bailey, Rep. Steve Tharinger, WSDOT Secretary Paula Hammond, Port Townsend Mayor Michelle Sandoval, and Coupeville Mayor Nancy Conard. The Port Gamble S'Klallam, Lower Elwha Klallam, and Jamestown S'Klallam tribes performed a welcoming ceremony with singing, dancing and drumming. Then we had a vessel "open house" so folks could take a good look around the new ferry. I appreciate everyone taking the time to attend and help us celebrate this very happy occasion. You can view photos of the event at www.flickr.com/photos/wsdot/sets/72157626962997831.

Fourth of July weekend travel

I hope you've already made your holiday weekend travel plans, since this is the busiest weekend of the year for ferry travel. Be prepared for long waits at all the terminals. If your schedule allows for flexibility, try to travel outside of the peak times, which are this afternoon and evening going westbound (although you should also anticipate heavy traffic Saturday and Sunday morning) and eastbound Monday afternoon and evening, as well as Tuesday morning. Happy Independence Day!

Check out the new look of our home page

Have you noticed something different about our home page? As part of our 60th anniversary celebration, we've given our home page a makeover. It might take a little getting used to at first, but we hope this new streamlined organization of the site will help you find what you need more easily. Have a look and let us know what you think. www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries

2011 fare proposal

On Wednesday we presented our 2011 fare proposal to the Transportation Commission, which is the group responsible for setting all fares and tolls for state transportation facilities. We worked with the Ferry Advisory Committee Tariff group (FACT) to develop the proposal. The FACT is composed of the chairs from each of the FACs or their designee. We met with them several times over the past couple of months. You can view a copy of our presentation to the Commission at www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/weekly. The Commission reviewed the proposal and made some amendments, and they will bring the proposal to the public for comments this summer. The Commission will hold a public hearing in late August, and new fares will go into effect Oct. 1.

San Juan Islands fall 2011 sailing schedule proposal

We'd like your feedback on our proposed fall 2011 sailing schedule for the Anacortes/San Juan Islands/Sidney, B.C. routes. The proposal is essentially the same as the just-concluded spring sailing schedule. Take a look at the proposal at www.wsdot.wa.gov/Ferries/Service/ScheduleProposals.htm and send your comments to wsfplanning@wsdot.wa.gov by close of business next Friday, July 8. We'll share all your comments with the San Juan Ferry Advisory Committee as we work with them to finalize the fall schedule.

Customer compliment

We received a very nice thank you this week from one of our customers on the Mukilteo/Clinton route that I would like to share. I'd also like to extend my personal thanks to Chief Mate Teresa Moore and the crew of the Kittitas for providing excellent customer service.

My family and I would like to convey our many thanks to the entire crew of the MV Kittitas...for their actions during the medical emergency we had with our 86-year-old father. Their quick response to our needs went beyond outstanding, we will forever be grateful to this crew.

Next Week:

- Kennewick construction progress meeting

David Moseley's weekly reports are available on the WSDOT Ferries Division website at www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/weekly.

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